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MONITORING AND EVALUATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION



WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED FROM OUR PROJECT

- Being able to monitor progress and evaluate interventions is essential to the success of violence prevention partnerships
- At present, about 14 of 79 local governments in Victoria are either undertaking violence prevention initiatives or have begun the process of developing a violence prevention initiative. Yet there is no common set of monitoring or evaluation criteria
- This is despite the current State Government's commitment to 'safe streets, homes, and workplaces' being part of the 11 state-wide goals set in *Growing Victoria Together (2001)*, with the criteria for demonstrating progress on this goal including 'violent crime and fear of violent crime [being] reduced'

WHAT WOULD EFFECTIVE EVALUATION LOOK LIKE?

- Monitoring the progress of violence prevention initiatives is difficult because of the complex and long-term aspects of violence in society
- However, the first step would be to set a goal or goals
 - *The City of Maribyrnong, with the help of an evaluation consultant provided by the GLOVE project, developed an overall goal for the project: 'The City of Maribyrnong creates and promotes a violence free community'. It then developed shorter term goals for the coming three years: (1) policies and practices for preventing violence against women and its impact are in place in the City of Maribyrnong; and (2) the Maribyrnong community has an awareness of varying forms of violence against women and their impact*
- Progress towards these goals might be measured by:
 - A suite of programs are developed by government-community partnerships, with a lead department/organization and monitoring criteria in the Municipal Public Health Plan (MPHP) and/or Council Plan
 - The number and range of participating community organizations in these programs are measured via attendance at coordinating committee meetings, trainings, and public forums
 - Community data on violence and awareness of violence is monitored on an annual basis and an evaluation of programs is accomplished at the end of the Council Plan or MPHP
 - The gap between violence reported in victimization surveys, and violence reported to police and supportive community agencies, is reduced.
- Violence Prevention becomes one of the goals of the Council Plan

WHAT KIND OF MONITORING DATA MIGHT BE HELPFUL?

Many councils undertake annual surveys as part of their planning and monitoring activities. Several share information and resources on community indicators as part of Community Indicators Victoria (<http://www.communityindicators.net.au/>). In the past, the state government has helped subsidize information-gathering at the local government level, as for instance with the 'Perceptions of Local Safety surveys 2000-2003'.

The following questions would assist in monitoring and evaluating violence prevention projects. They could be asked in a State-wide annual telephone survey, and information could be broken down by local government area. However, training for staff in responding to reported incidents of abuse would be necessary.

1. Are you ever concerned for your safety (choices: often/sometimes/never):

- a) At home
- b) At work
- c) On the street or in other public places (eg., public transport)

2. In the past year, have you experienced being:

- a) Threatened or hit during a date
- b) Threatened or hit by your spouse or partner
- c) Threatened or hit by someone who wasn't a date, partner or spouse – a friend or acquaintance
- d) Threatened or hit by a stranger
- e) Forced to do something sexual against your will by a spouse, or partner
- f) Forced to do something sexual against your will by a date, acquaintance or stranger
- g) Robbed (forced to give your money or belongings to another person)
- h) Yelled at or harassed by a date or spouse or partner
- i) Yelled at or harassed by an acquaintance or stranger

3. If so, for every incident, did you:

- a) Report it to the police
- b) Tell a friend or family member
- c) Tell a doctor or nurse
- d) Tell someone from an agency such as a helpline
- e) Tell no one

These questions could be measured against police and agency data to know whether more people are seeking help from these organizations (a measure of success), and eventually, whether incidences of violence and fear of violence are decreasing over the long term.

